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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The claims are 14-24, claims 1-13 having been previously cancelled without prejudice by Preliminary Amendment filed May 3, 2006. Claims 14-18 and 20-24 have been amended. In particular, claims 14, 17, 21 and 23 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 14-18 and 20-24 have also been amended to delete drawing reference numeral from the claims. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner has requested at page 4 of the March 21, 2008 Non-final Office Action that the references to the claims recited or contained in the specification be removed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification to delete references to the claims numbers in the specification. The specification has also been amended to insert appropriate section headings. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 14, 16-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, in the Examiner's view the phrases "a tab (7) each is formed" in claim 14, line 12 and the phrase "a

tab (7) each which" in claim 14, line 16 are indefinite because it is unclear whether a single tab or a pair of tabs is being claimed. With respect to claim 23, the Examiner indicated the word "concerns" is indefinite since the relationship between the welding station and the ultrasonic welding station is unclear.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claim 14 to recite "*a respective first tab and a respective second tab are formed by placing a respective first cut and a respective second cut*". Claim 17 has also been amended to recite "*the first tab and second tab*". Claim 23 has been amended to recite that "*the welding station comprises an ultrasonic welding station*".

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication at page 3 of the Office Action that claims 15, 22 and 24 are allowed and the indication at page 4 of the Office Action that claims 14, 16-21 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 14-24 are in condition for allowance.


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In summary claims 14-18 and 20-24 have been amended. The specification has been amended to delete references to the claims and to insert appropriate section headings.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims, which are claims 14-24, are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner James SELLS, Group No. 1791 to 571 273 8300 on June 2, 2008.


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